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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/458,132	02/16/2000	WILLIAM R. SPRAGUE	SPRAGUE-REI-	8479

7590

02/27/2002

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10 NORTH CALVERT STREET  
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

EXAMINER
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GEHMAN, BRYON P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO/ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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23

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

***Response to Amendment***

The reply filed on January 3, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): The proposed amendment to the abstract can not be entered, as it does not comply with 37 CFR 1.173, as new language differing from the original patent should be underlined and deletions from the original abstract should be bracketed. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiner. As the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining Tech Center, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiner. See MPEP 203.08. The Tech Center clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148.

In receiving an Office Action, it becomes apparent that certain documents are missing, e. g. copies of references, Forms PTO 1449, PTO-892, etc., requests for copies should be directed to Tech Center 3700 Customer Service at (703) 308-5648, or e-mail [CustomerService3700@uspto.gov](mailto:CustomerService3700@uspto.gov).

Any inquiry concerning the merits of the examination of the application should be directed to Bryon Gehman at telephone number (703) 308-3866. My work schedule is normally Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 am through 5 pm, with Friday being worked at an alternative site away from my office.

Should I be unavailable during my normal working hours, my supervisor Mickey Yu may be reached at (703) 308-2672. The FAX phone numbers for formal communications concerning this application are (703) 872-9302 and (703) 872-9303.

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Informal communications may be made, following a telephone call to the examiner, by an informal FAX number to be given.

Other possibly helpful telephone numbers are:

Allowed Files & Publication	(703) 305-8322
Assignment Branch	(703) 308-9287
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Drawing Corrections/Draftsman	(703) 305-8404/ 8335
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Intellectual Property Questions	(703) 305-8217
Petitions/Special Programs	(703) 305-9282
Terminal Disclaimers	(703) 305-8408
Information Help Line	1-800-786-9199

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1148.

BPG  
February 7, 2002



Bryon P. Gehman  
Primary Examiner